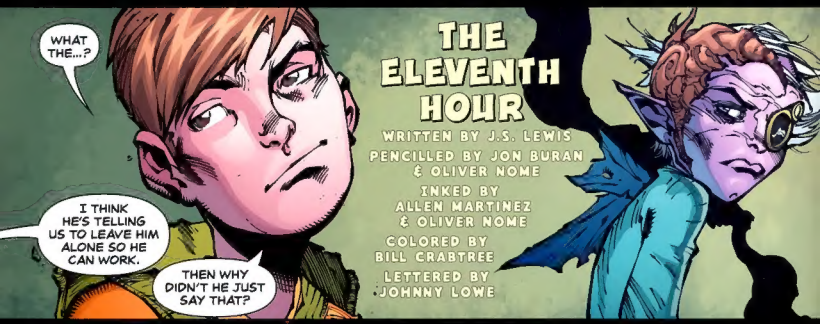
BASED ON THE VIRTUAL WORLD PHENOMENON *FREE REALMS!*

FreeRealms™

#6 APR 10

Exclusive In-Game Reward Inside! Collect all 12. See page 28 for details on collecting the Darkthorne's Embrace

HAVE YOU EVER MET A PERSON THAT GIVES YOU THE CREEPS...BUT YOU AREN'T SURE *WHY?* YOU KNOW THE TYPE. THEY STARE AT YOU JUST A LITTLE TOO LONG, OR THEY STAND JUST A LITTLE TOO CLOSE?
MAYBE I'VE SEEN TOO MANY MOVIES, BUT *THIS GUY* FREAKS ME OUT. I MEAN, WHO LIVES IN THE MIDDLE OF A SWAMP, ANYWAY?
DARKTHORNE SAID HIS NAME WAS *EGGERT THE MAD.* SHE WASN'T KIDDING. THE GUY ISN'T PLAYING WITH A FULL DECK.
APPARENTLY HE'S A BRILLIANT ALCHEMIST. ALL I KNOW IS THAT EVERY TIME HE LOOKS AT ME, HE LICKS HIS LIPS. IT REMINDS ME OF THE WAY MY NEIGHBOR'S CAT USED TO LOOK AT BIRDS THAT FLEW BY HER WINDOW.
YOU CAN BET THAT IF THE QUEEN WEREN'T DYING, I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS PLACE RIGHT NOW. SUPPOSEDLY OLD EGGY HERE IS THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN MAKE THE ANTIDOTE TO SAVE HER.
LOOK, WE'RE KIND OF IN A HURRY.
HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU THINK THIS IS GOING TO TAKE?

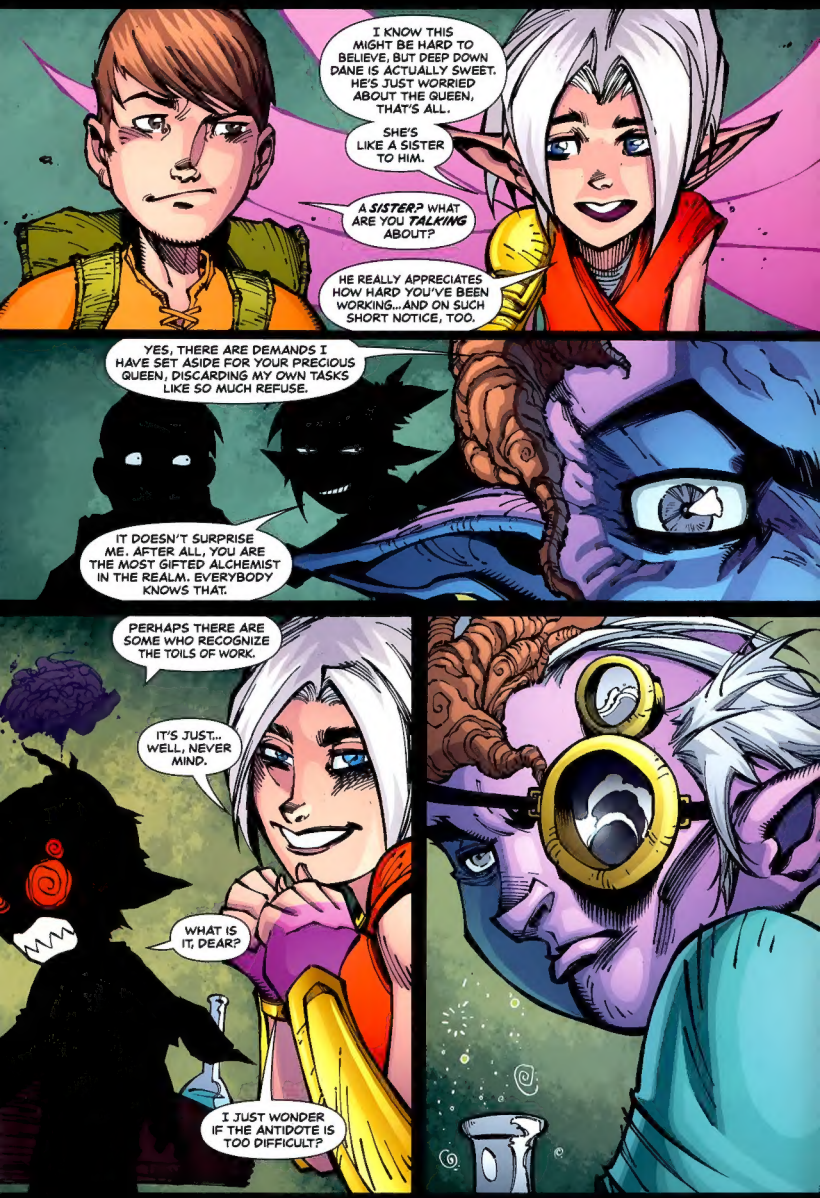


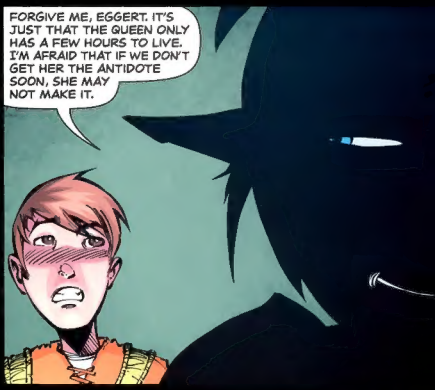
THE ELEVENTH HOUR

WRITTEN BY J.S. LEWIS
PENCILLED BY JON BURAN & OLIVER NOME
INKED BY ALLEN MARTINEZ & OLIVER NOME
COLORED BY BILL CRABTREE
LETTERED BY JOHNNY LOWE

ASSISTANT EDITED BY MICHAEL MCCALISTER
EDITED BY SHANNON DENTON & SCOTT PETERSON

I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR DANE'S BEHAVIOR. HE CAN BE INSENSITIVE.
THE SUN DEMANDS THE SKY, PUSHING AWAY THE NIGHT FOR HIS OWN GLORY. I CURSE THE SUN.
CAN YOU IMAGINE DEALING WITH HIM ON A DAILY BASIS?
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE...
HE'S PROBABLY THE MOST SELF-CENTERED PERSON THAT I'VE EVER MET, BUT THE WORST PART IS THAT HE LIKES TO TALK ABOUT PERSONAL GROOMING HABITS.
I THINK HE'S THE FIRST BOY I'VE KNOWN THAT SLEEPS WITH A MUD MASK AND CUCUMBERS OVER HIS EYES.
THE PEACOCK PLUCKS HIS FEATHERS?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
IS IT NOT OBVIOUS?
YES, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.


I KNOW THIS MIGHT BE HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT DEEP DOWN DANE IS ACTUALLY SWEET. HE'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT THE QUEEN, THAT'S ALL.
SHE'S LIKE A SISTER TO HIM.
A SISTER? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HE REALLY APPRECIATES HOW HARD YOU'VE BEEN WORKING...AND ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, TOO.
YES, THERE ARE DEMANDS I HAVE SET ASIDE FOR YOUR PRECIOUS QUEEN, DISCARDING MY OWN TASKS LIKE SO MUCH REFUSE.
IT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME. AFTER ALL, YOU ARE THE MOST GIFTED ALCHEMIST IN THE REALM. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT.
PERHAPS THERE ARE SOME WHO RECOGNIZE THE TOILS OF WORK.
IT'S JUST... WELL, NEVER MIND.
WHAT IS IT, DEAR?
I JUST WONDER IF THE ANTIDOTE IS TOO DIFFICULT?

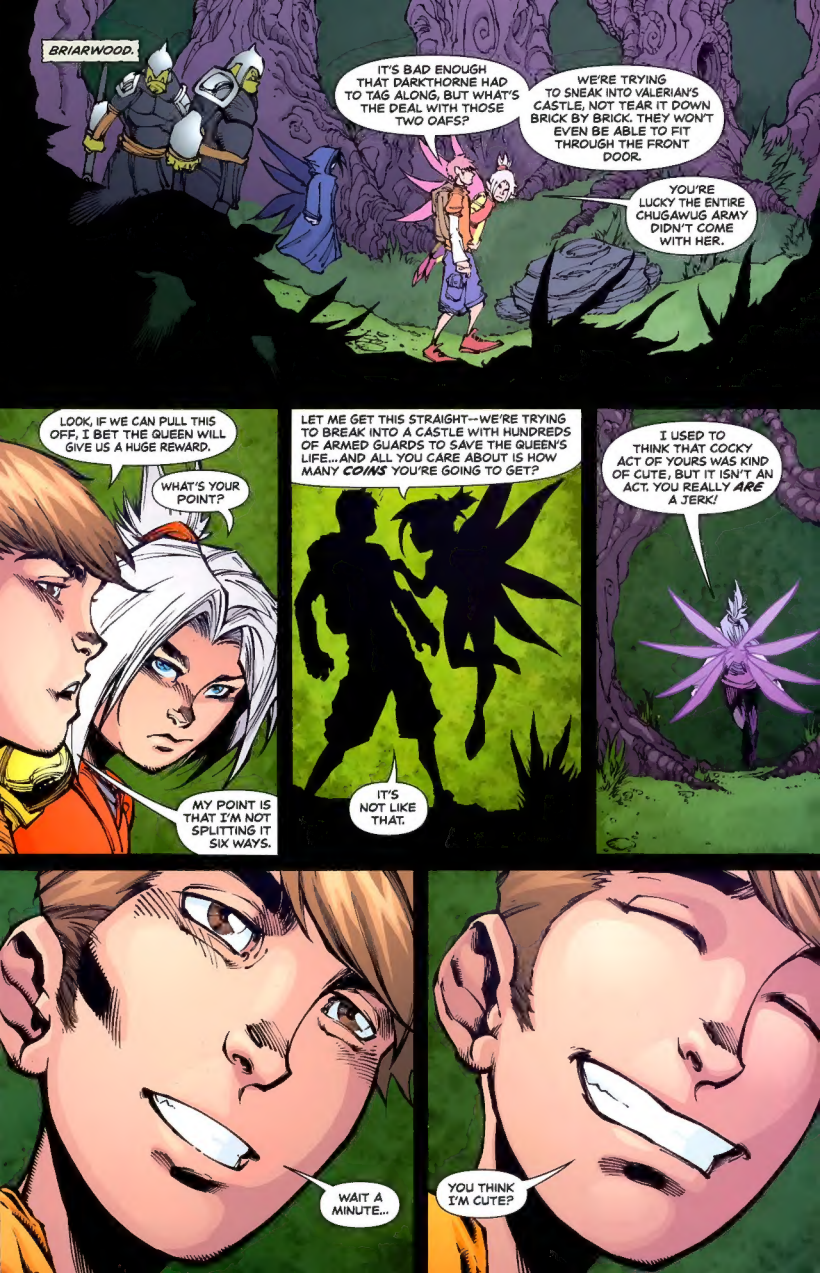


I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING. I'M SORRY.

I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'LL EVER BE ABLE TO REPAY YOU.

NONSENSE, CHILD. SUCH WORK IS BUT A TRIFLE. BEFORE NIGHT FALLS, THE QUEEN WILL RISE FROM HER BED LIKE THE FIRST FLOWER OF SPRING.

NOT ALL ARE SWAYED BY TRINKETS AND TRIFLES, MY DEAR. GOLD DOES NOT QUENCH MY THIRST, AND JEWELS DO NOT CURE MY HUNGER. I ASK FOR NOTHING.


BRIARWOOD.
IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT DARKTHORNE HAD TO TAG ALONG, BUT WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THOSE TWO OAFS?
WE'RE TRYING TO SNEAK INTO VALERIAN'S CASTLE, NOT TEAR IT DOWN BRICK BY BRICK. THEY WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO FIT THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.
YOU'RE LUCKY THE ENTIRE CHUGAWUG ARMY DIDN'T COME WITH HER.
LOOK, IF WE CAN PULL THIS OFF, I BET THE QUEEN WILL GIVE US A HUGE REWARD.
WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
MY POINT IS THAT I'M NOT SPLITTING IT SIX WAYS.
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT--WE'RE TRYING TO BREAK INTO A CASTLE WITH HUNDREDS OF ARMED GUARDS TO SAVE THE QUEEN'S LIFE...AND ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS HOW MANY COINS YOU'RE GOING TO GET?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
I USED TO THINK THAT COCKY ACT OF YOURS WAS KIND OF CUTE, BUT IT ISN'T AN ACT. YOU REALLY ARE A JERK!
WAIT A MINUTE...
YOU THINK I'M CUTE?

HE IS THE MOST SELF-CENTERED...
...EGOTISTICAL...
...ARROGANT...
...OH NO. NOT AGAIN!

SO ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME GET DOWN, OR WHAT?
WHAT HAPPENED?
ARE YOU SERIOUS? WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
I FLEW INTO A TRAP, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
NOW HELP ME GET DOWN.
NOT UNTIL YOU SAY THE MAGIC WORD.
KNOCK IT OFF. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY AROUND.
I'M WAITING.
FINE.
I'LL SAY ANYTHING IF YOU WIPE THAT SMIRK OFF YOUR FACE.
AND?
PLEASE!

NOW. THAT WASN'T SO DIFFICULT, WAS IT?
WAIT!
YOU REALLY NEED TO STOP PLAYING HARD TO GET.
ZZZZWWWPPP!
WHAT THE...?

THE ANTIDOTE!
ZZZIIIING!

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST CUT YOURSELF DOWN IN THE FIRST PLACE?
AFTER ALL THE TIMES I SAVED YOUR REAR END, I FIGURED IT WAS TIME FOR YOU TO RETURN THE FAVOR.
I GUESS WE KNOW WHO SET THOSE TRAPS.

SOLDIERS FROM SANCTUARY ARE IN THE FOREST! I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO INVADE, AND THAT MEANS...
...THE QUEEN IS DEAD.
NO!
NO. I CAN FEEL HER PRESENCE, BUT SHE'S FADING. WE MUST HURRY.
WHAT ABOUT THOSE SOLDIERS?
LEAVE THEM TO ME.
THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK.

THUD! THUD! THUD!
WHAT DID YOU DO?
I ASKED A FEW FRIENDS TO HELP US OUT. NOW FOLLOW ME.
WE'RE CLOSING IN ON THE BORDER OF SANCTUARY, AND I KNOW A SHORTCUT THAT WILL TAKE US TO THE CASTLE.
CRASH!!!
HUH?
WHAT THE...?
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
WHOOOOSSSH!!!
CRACK!
UGH!
I KNEW THAT I SHOULD HAVE CALLED IN SICK...
RETREAT!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THIS!

QUEEN VALERIAN'S CASTLE, SANCTUARY.
DO YOU THINK OLD EGGERT THE WEIRD IS FINISHED WITH HIS INVISIBILITY POTION?
HIS NAME IS EGGERT THE MAD, AND CONSIDERING WE LEFT HIS SHOP ALL OF A FEW HOURS AGO, I DOUBT IT.
THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED. SO IF WE DON'T HAVE ANY INVISIBILITY POTION, HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET PAST ALL THOSE SOLDIERS?
WAIT... HAS ANYONE SEEN GLOOMPETAL?
MAYBE SHE FELL INTO A TRAP.
YOU KNOW, THE KIND WITH ALL THOSE WOODEN SPIKES STICKING UP OUT OF THE BOTTOM OF A PIT?
OR WHAT IF SHE WALKED INTO A BUNCH OF SPORE ZOMBIES?
WE GET THE POINT!
OR MAYBE SHE DECIDED TO GO AND GET ALL THOSE CREEPY SPIDERS TO HELP US SAVE THE QUEEN.

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S JOIN THE PARTY!

ISN'T THIS FUN?
YOU HAVE AN EXTREMELY WARPED SENSE OF FUN.

FIND THE WITCH AND TAKE HER OUT!

I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR THIS DAY, GEOFFREY.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT I WOULD TRY TO HIDE FROM YOU?

YOU MAY HAVE KILLED MY PARENTS, GEOFFREY.
BUT YOU ARE NOT GOING TO TAKE MY SISTER FROM ME.
AAARRRGGHH!
EEEEKKK!
IT'S CRUSHING ME!
UGGHH!

YOU NEED TO BRING THE ANTIDOTE TO MY SISTER BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

FreeRealms™

CLAIM YOUR REWARD!

NEW ACCOUNTS

1. GO TO THE ***FREE REALMS*** WEBSITE - HTTP://WWW.FREEREALMS.COM
2. ENTER THE CODE INTO THE TEXT FIELD IN THE "REDEEM-A-CODE" BOX ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE HOME PAGE
3. CLICK THE GREEN "GO!" BUTTON
4. THESE CODES WORK WITH NEW AND EXISTING ACCOUNTS, SO IF YOU'RE A NEW PLAYER YOU'LL HAVE TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT AT THIS POINT IF YOU WANT TO CLAIM THE CODE; ON THE ***FREE REALMS*** LOG IN PAGE, CLICK THE "FIRST TIME HERE? START PLAYING FOR FREE!" HYPERLINK.
5. COMPLETE THE NEW ACCOUNT REGISTRATION
6. THE "CONGRATULATIONS!" SCREEN WILL APPEAR, ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR SUCCESSFUL CODE REDEMPTION AND YOUR RECEIPT OF THE IN-GAME ITEM

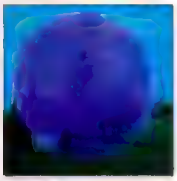
ENTER THIS CODE

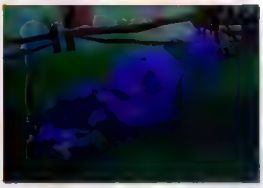
7. CLICK "CONTINUE"
8. YOU'RE IN! NOW CLICK THE SC ICON IN THE GAME DOCK!
9. SELECT THE "CLAIM" BUTTON TO LOAD THE ITEM CLAIM SCREEN
10. YOU'LL SEE THE *DARKTHORNE'S EMBRACE* ITEM IN YOUR PENDING CLAIMS. SELECT IT BY RUNNING THE CURSOR OVER IT AND LEFT-CLICKING, THEN CLICKING ON THE GREEN "CLAIM" BUTTON ON THE RIGHT!
11. ENJOY YOUR *DARKTHORNE'S EMBRACE*

EXISTING ACCOUNTS

1. LOG IN AND LAUNCH ***FREE REALMS*** USING THE ACCOUNT AND CHARACTER WHO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE REWARD.
2. SELECT THE SC ICON ON THE GAME DOCK
3. SELECT THE "CLAIM" BUTTON TO LOAD THE ITEMS CLAIM SCREEN
4. ENTER THE CODE INTO THE TEXT FIELD IN THE "REDEEM-A-CODE" BOX ON THE TOP OF THE WINDOW
5. YOU'LL SEE THE *DARKTHORNE'S EMBRACE* ITEM IN YOUR PENDING CLAIMS. SELECT IT BY RUNNING THE CURSOR OVER IT AND LEFT-CLICKING, THEN CLICKING ON THE GREEN "CLAIM" BUTTON ON THE RIGHT!
6. ENJOY YOUR *DARKTHORNE'S EMBRACE*

DARKTHORNE'S EMBRACE





THE STORM FRONT

On the surface, SPARTA: USA doesn't look like your typical WildStorm book. There are no sword-wielding warriors from the planet Khera or scantily clad gen-active teenagers anywhere to be found on the streets of Sparta. What it does have, though, is an unpredictable fairy tale of a story starring a long-thought-dead, star quarterback returning home one day bigger, stronger and redder than ever to save the town.

The story focuses on a middle-American town where everyone's devoted to football and the pursuit of the American Dream, usually through scoring touchdowns. Off the field, the risks and rewards in Sparta are much higher and more cutthroat, thanks to the leadership of the seven-foot-tall Maestro, which works just fine for everyone living there…or so they're led to believe. Mix in some local superstitions—including Stork Day and the fabled Yeti—and watch the sparks fly!

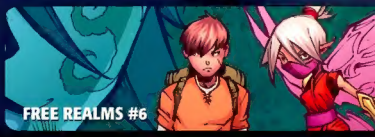
In the deft hands of David Lapham (MODERN WARFARE 2: GHOST and the Eisner Award-winning *Stray Bullets*), there's obviously something flawed with the people living in Sparta, but it's that same amoral edge that propels this story along. Johnny Timmons, a fresh face at WildStorm, brings an experienced style to his art that seems well beyond his brief time in comics. It's a seamless fit to Lapham's mischievous writing, bringing a raw texture to the people and the town itself.

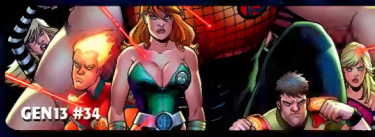
Together, Lapham and Timmons bring an old-fashioned dose of comic sense to create an immediately engaging story as Godfrey McLaine steps back into Sparta, one red foot after another. On the surface, Sparta, USA may look like another American town, but a stray bullet or two will soon convince you otherwise.

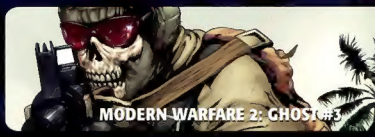
Best,

JIM LEE

OUT THIS MONTH!


FREE REALMS #6


GEN13 #34


MODERN WARFARE 2: GHOST #3

VICTORIAN UNDEAD #4

WILDCATS #20

COLLECTED EDITIONS:
AUTHORITY: RULE BRITANNIA TPB
RESISTANCE TPB

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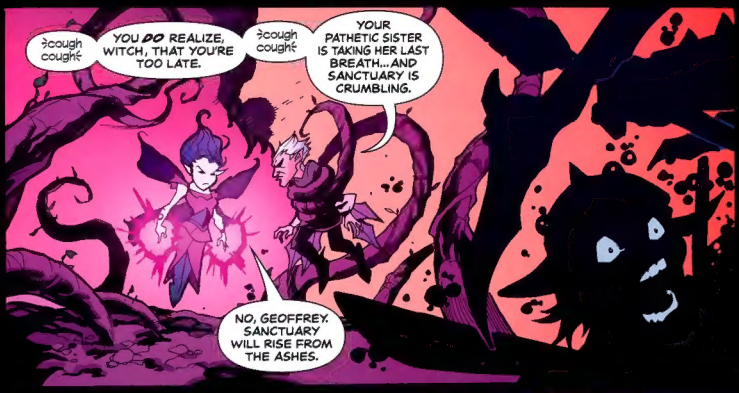
IN STORES FEBRUARY:

- ASTRO CITY: THE DARK AGE Book 4 #2
- THE AUTHORITY #19
- THE AUTHORITY: THE LOST YEAR #6
- DANTE'S INFERNO #3
- FREE REALMS #6
- GEN13 #34
- MODERN WARFARE 2: GHOST #3
- SUPERNATURAL: BEGINNING'S END #2
- VICTORIAN UNDEAD #4
- WILDCATS #20

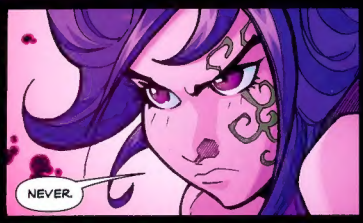
For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at **wildstorm.com**

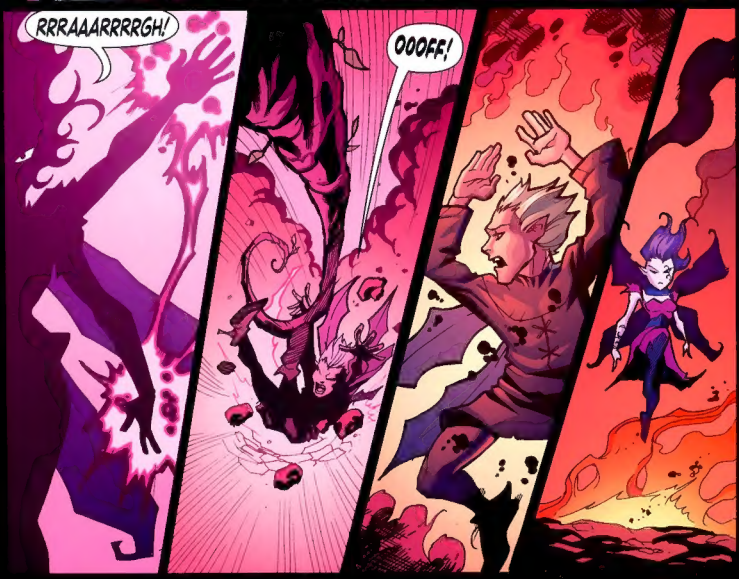
NEXT ISSUE:
FREE REALMS #7

WILDSTORM

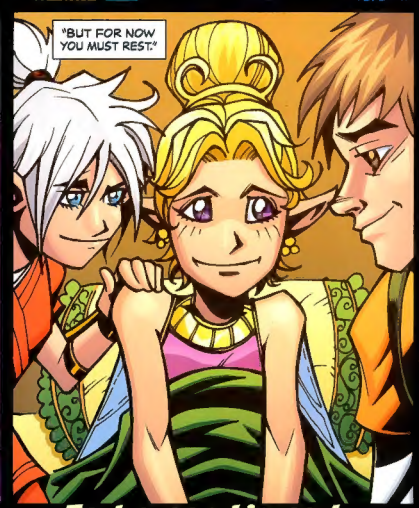

cough cough
YOU DO REALIZE, WITCH, THAT YOU'RE TOO LATE.
cough cough
YOUR PATHETIC SISTER IS TAKING HER LAST BREATH...AND SANCTUARY IS CRUMBLING.
NO, GEOFFREY. SANCTUARY WILL RISE FROM THE ASHES.

YOU ARE A FOOL, DARKTHORNE. THINGS HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION THAT YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND.
DARKNESS STRETCHES ACROSS THIS LAND AND BEYOND, AND SOON MY MASTER WILL COME--AND YOU WILL BOW BEFORE HIM AS HIS SLAVE.


NEVER.


RRRAAARRRRGH!
OOOFF!

BOOM!
IS SHE...?
NO. NOT YET.
POP!
HURRY, MAYA.
cough cough



To be continued...